I CLAIM:

1. In card printing apparatus having a printer unit, an input hopper for cards to be printed and an outlet for printed cards, wherein the input hopper, when placed in the card printer, surrounds a stack of cards, the lowermost card in the stack being horizontal, or substantially horizontal, the improvement comprising configuring the input hopper so that, when placed in the card printer, at least a section of the stack is inclined to the vertical by at least 10°.

2. The card printing apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the inclination to the vertical is from 15 to 45°.

3. The card printing apparatus of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the card hopper comprises a lower and an upper section, both substantially vertical in use, and an inclined section intermediate the lower and upper sections.

4. The card printing apparatus of Claim 1 or 2 wherein the dimensions of the in-feed hopper, in a plane parallel to the floor of the hopper, in at least one portion of the in-feed hopper, are such as to incline the cards as they travel down the hopper at an angle which differs from the angle of the floor.

5. The card printing apparatus of Claim 1 and including a substantial vertically extending output hopper comprising a card-receiving shaft and a stacking floor adapted to move downwardly as the weight of cards stacked thereon increases.

6. The card printing apparatus of Claim 5 wherein the output hopper has a floor slidable in a shaft, the floor being suspended via cords, the tension in the cords being regulated by a spring-loaded drum around which the cords loop.